



**Department of Education  
Charter School Accountability Meeting**

**October 7, 2013  
Renewal Application Process  
Initial Meeting - Minutes**

**Newark Charter School**

Mr. Blowman called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. For the purpose of the record, introductions were made:

**Voting Committee Members of the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC)**

- David Blowman, Deputy Secretary, Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), Chair of the Committee
- Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary, Financial Reform & Resource Management, DDOE
- Rich Heffron, Senior Vice President Government Affairs, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce
- Paul Harrell, Director, Public & Private Partnerships, DDOE
- April McCrae, Education Associate, Education Associate, Science Assessment and STEM, DDOE
- Barbara Mazza, Education Associate, Exceptional Children Resources, DDOE
- Tasha Cannon, Deputy Officer Talent Recruitment, Selection and Strategy, Teacher & Leader Effectiveness Unit (TLEU), DDOE

**Staff to the Committee (Non-voting)**

- Chantel Janiszewski, Education Associate, Charter School Office, DDOE
- Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Committee

**Ex-officio Members (Non-voting)**

- Kendall Massett, Executive Director, Delaware Charter School Network
- Donna Johnson, Executive Director, Delaware State Board of Education

**Representatives of Newark Charter School**

- Greg Meece, Director
- Steve Dressel, Board Chair
- Joanne Schlosberg, Business Manager
- Esther Jackson, Dean of Instruction

**Meeting purpose:** To review and discuss Newark Charter School's renewal application, to take such further action thereon as the Charter School Accountability Committee deems appropriate including, without limitation, the drafting of a report on the application, and to give the applicant the opportunity to: present additional evidence beyond the data contained in the renewal application, supporting its case for charter renewal, describe improvements undertaken or planned for the school, and detail the school's plans for the next charter term.

**Renewal Application Process Timeline:** Mr. Blowman discussed the renewal application process timeline, identifying October 15, 2013 as the release date of the Charter School Accountability

Committee's (CSAC) Initial Report, October 23, 2013 as the date of the Public Hearing, October 30, 2013 as the deadline for the applicant's response to the Initial Report, November 4, 2013 as the final meeting of the CSAC and November 12, 2013 as the Delaware State Board of Education meeting at which the Department's decision on the application will be announced by the Secretary of Education.

**Renewal Process:** Mr. Blowman discussed the changes to the charter school renewal process as a result of changes to legislation, primarily HB 165, and the role of the Performance Framework in making high-stakes decisions around renewals.

**Meeting between the CSAC and Newark Charter School:** At Mr. Blowman's invitation, Mr. Greg Meece, Director of Newark Charter School, summarized for the CSAC each section of the application, highlighting key points. CSAC voting members asked clarifying questions directly of the applicant after each section was summarized. The sections of the application, identified below, were discussed. Various issues were explored, including those listed under applicable section headings.

1. Overview of the school

Ms. Donna Johnson requested a progress report on Newark's outreach plan as it was a condition of their most recent major modification approval. Mr. Harrell commended Newark Charter School for its Special Education students' achievement in English Language Arts.

2. Academic Framework

Mr. Harrell commended Newark Charter School for its Special Education students' achievement in English Language Arts. Newark Charter School's Academic Performance Review Report indicates that the lowest-performing students (students in the bottom 25% as determined by their fall instructional scale scores) did not meet their math instructional scale score growth targets in 2012-13. Ms. Johnson asked what specific strategies are being implemented to address this area of concern.

3. Organizational Framework

Ms. Field-Rogers asked what is done to bring new student into the culture of Newark Charter School. Ms. Mazza asked what transportation accommodations the school provides for students with physical disabilities.

4. Financial Framework

None stated.

5. Five-Year Planning

Mr. Blowman asked what whether the school intends to implement the IB Diploma Programme for students in grades 11 and 12 only. Mr. Meece stated that this is what they intend to do at this time. However, if they find that the program is successful, they may consider adding the middle years.

**Conclusion of the meeting:** Mr. Blowman asked the voting members of the CSAC if there was any additional information they required in order to inform their decision-making. The result was a unanimous "no". Mr. Blowman then asked the voting members of the CSAC if there were any sections of the application that they felt warranted a "Does Not Meet Standard" rating at this time based on their review of the application and the discussions at the meeting. The result was a unanimous "no". The meeting concluded at 10:15 a.m.